

**Best
Available
Copy**

AD A094012

(14) NOD-S

SURFACE CURRENTS.
NORTHEAST NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

(9) F



(11) Jan 18

(13) 2.8

JANUARY 1978

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE; DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED.

NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
NSTL STATION, MISSISSIPPI 39522

ABSTRACT

THIS ATLAS, AND THE SERIES OF WHICH IT IS A PART, IS COMPUTER GENERATED AND AUTOMATICALLY PLOTTED. IT MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE USER THE MOST RECENT SURFACE CURRENT DATA COLLECTED AND WILL BE UPDATED WHENEVER SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS OF DATA ARE ADDED TO THE DATA FILE. THIS AND THE OTHER ATLASES ARE BASED ON A VAST QUANTITY OF DATA AS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS MANUALLY-COMPILED EDITIONS PRINTED IN THE MID-THIRTIES.

THE SURFACE CURRENT INFORMATION IS BASED MAINLY ON SHEP DRIET, WHICH IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DEAD RECKONING POSITION AND THE POSITION DETERMINED BY ANY TYPE OF NAVIGATIONAL FIX. THIS DIFFERENCE DESCRIBES THE DIRECTION AND SPEED OF THE CURRENT.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


Messrs. Raymond J. Beauchesne* and William E. Boisvert made major contributions to this atlas.

*Mr. Beauchesne presently is employed by the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

FOREWORD

THIS ATLAS, ONE IN A SERIES OF 43 REGIONAL SURFACE CURRENT ATLASES, IS PRODUCED TO FULFILL A NEED OF NAVY PLANNING STAFFS AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE LATEST AVAILABLE OCEAN SURFACE CURRENT DATA. THESE ATLASES ADD TO THE WEALTH OF NAUTICAL INFORMATION UPON WHICH OPERATIONAL PLANNING, NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY, AND SHIPPING ECONOMY DEPEND. RAPID PRODUCTION AND WIDE DISSEMINATION OF THIS ATLAS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LATEST COMPUTER TECHNIQUES.

THE CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF SURFACE CURRENT DATA RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS IS MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BY THE MORE THOROUGH REPORTS OF VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS IN RECENT YEARS. THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, THE OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE, AND THE USER OF THE ATLASES RELY ON THE PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE MAN WHO HAS "BEEN THERE." MARINERS, IN REPORTING THEIR OBSERVATIONS, RENDER A SERVICE NOT ONLY TO THEMSELVES BUT ALSO TO ALL "WHO GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS." WITH THE ADVENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION AIDS, AND 300,000-TON SHIPS, UP-TO-DATE, RAPIDLY DISSEMINATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.


JOHN R. McDONNELL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commander

Accession	
NTIS GRA&	
DTIC TAB	
Unannounced	
Justification	
By _____	
Distribution	
Availability	
Dist	Avail Spec
A	-

11

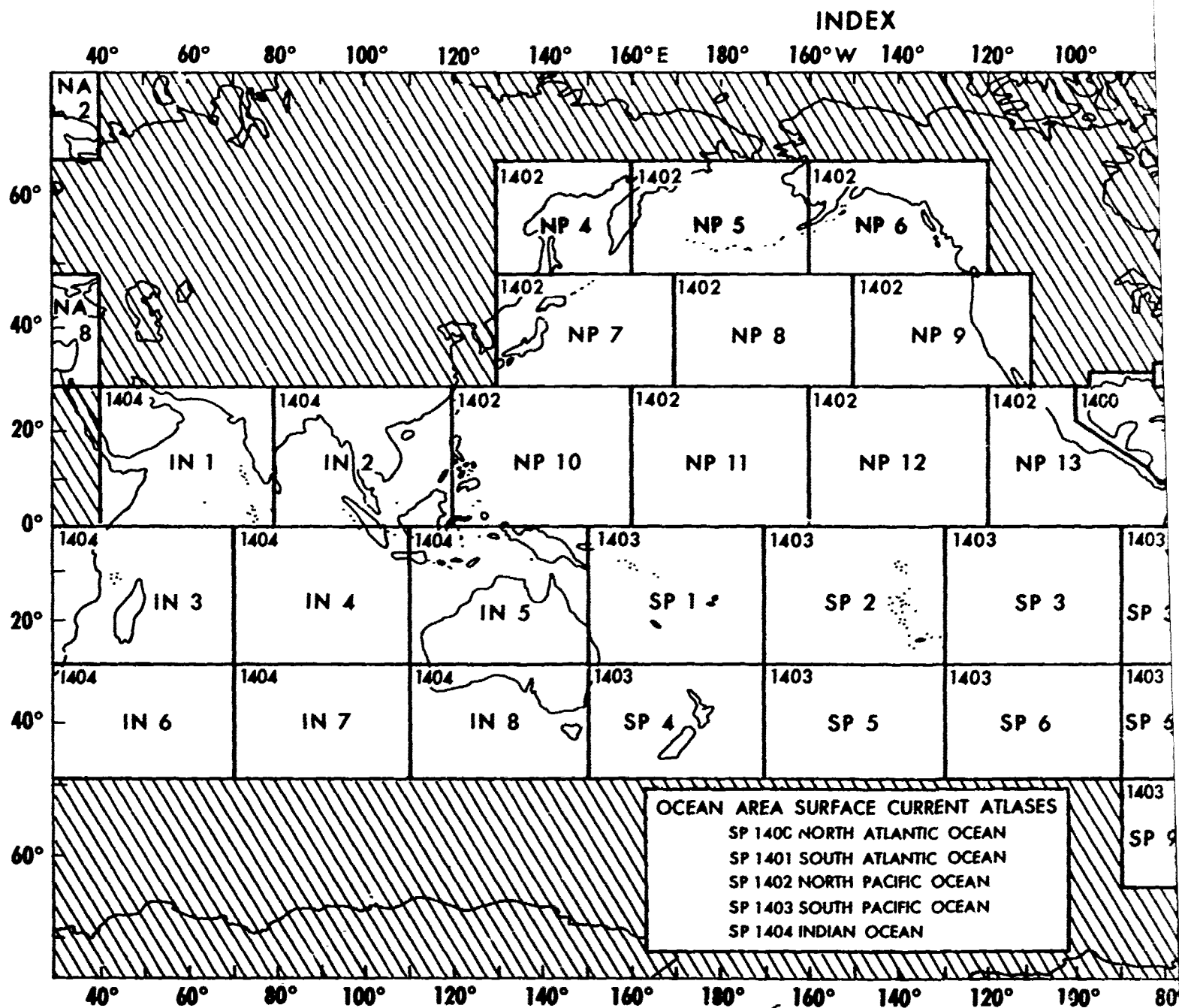
SURFACE CURRENT ATLASES

THIS SERIES OF COMPUTERIZED ATLASES REPLACES THE OLD HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE ATLASES OF SURFACE CURRENTS (HOP 566, 568, 569, 570) WHICH WERE MANUALLY COMPILED FROM DATA OBTAINED DURING THE PERIOD 1903 - 1934. THESE NEW ATLASES CONFORM TO THE STANDARD NAVY OCEAN AREA AND REGION INDEX LIMITS SHOWN BELOW: e.g., NOO SP 1402-NP 10 COVERS NORTH PACIFIC REGION 10 EAST OF THE PHILIPPINES.

AS AMOUNTS OF NEW DATA

THESE GRAPHICS MAY AREAS AS THE NORTH SEA. CURRENTS ARE STRONGLY TO PREDICTABLE HOURLY CHANG

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DATA FILE ASSURE THE INCLUSION OF THE LATEST, HIGH QUALITY SURFACE CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE. THE FILE NOW CONTAINS MORE THAN 4,200,000 OBSERVATIONS AND A GENERAL UPDATE OF THE FILE WILL BE MADE



SURFACE CURRENT ATLASES

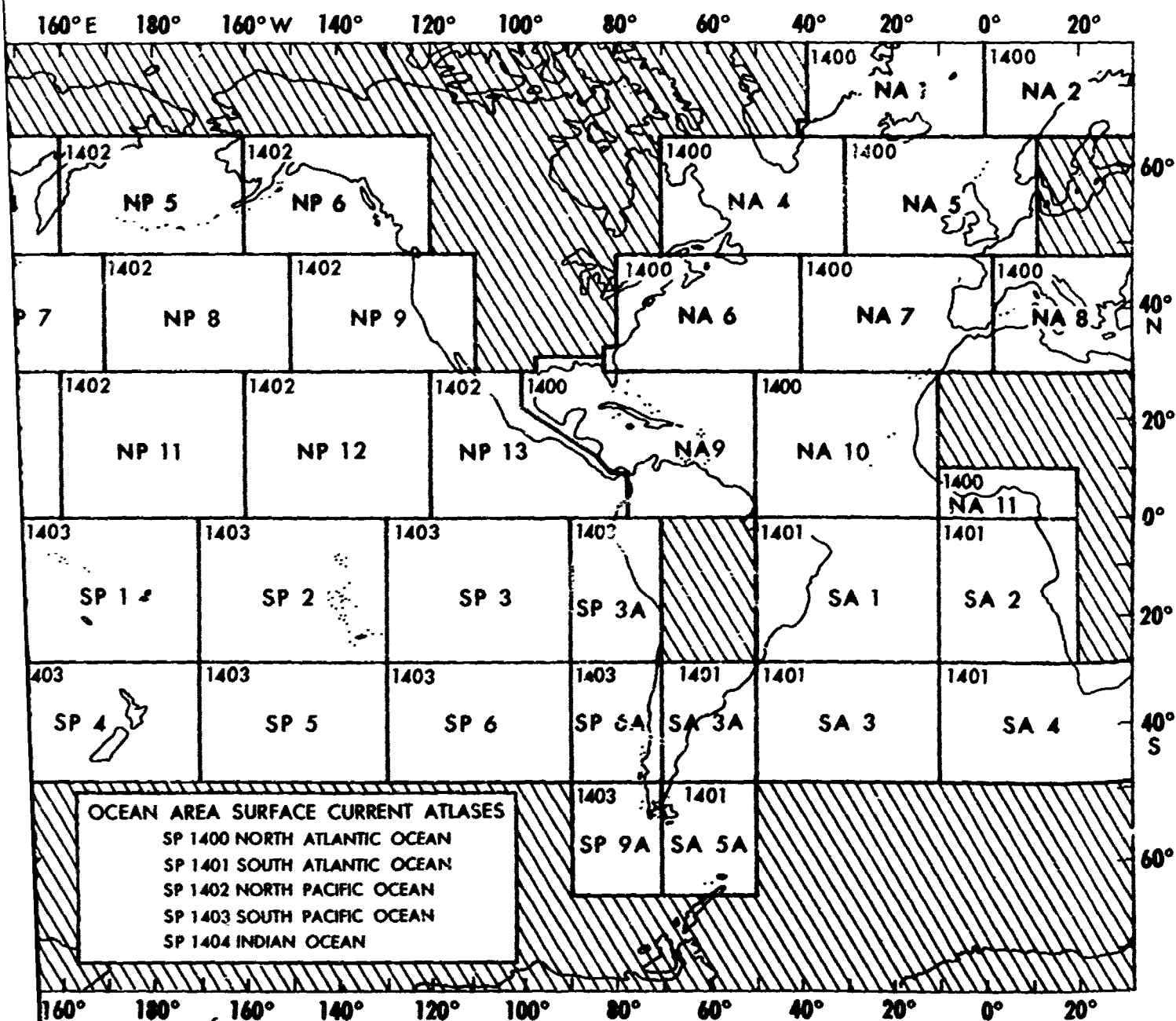
D HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE
H WERE MANUALLY

THESE NEW ATLASES
LIMITS SHOWN BELOW:
OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ION OF THE LATEST,
CONTAINS MORE
LE WILL BE MADE

AS AMOUNTS OF NEW DATA WARRANT, MOST LIKELY EVERY 12 - 18 MONTHS.

THESE GRAPHICS MAY NOT BE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACTUAL FLOW IN SUCH AREAS AS THE NORTH SEA, PERSIAN GULF, GULF OF THAILAND, AND YELLOW SEA WHERE CURRENTS ARE STRONGLY TIDAL. FOR SUCH AREAS, OTHER SOURCES DESCRIBING PREDICTABLE HOURLY CHANGES OF TIDAL CURRENTS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.



Introduction

The Surface Current Data File, from which these atlases are derived, consists primarily of over four million ship set and drift observations. These data were collected by the Netherlands, Japan, Britain, France, and the United States. The file is supplemented by several thousand Geomagnetic Electrokinetograph (GEX) observations, mostly Japanese. The file spans the period from the early 1850's to the present. The earliest observations were collected by the Netherlands and Great Britain; those of the 1950's through the present are primarily United States data.

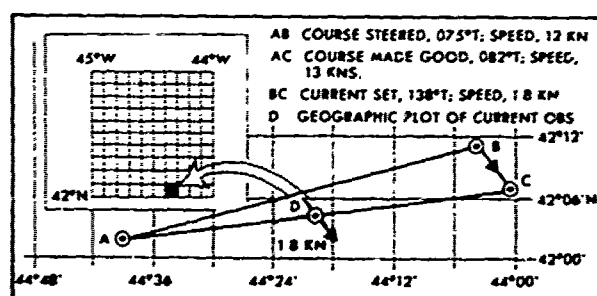
General Quality

The quality of this data file is considered high for this type of derived value. The data have been carefully screened for duplication; observations taken under adverse conditions (i.e. high winds and waves, time between observations greater than 12 hours) have been eliminated when warranted. Consideration was given to the reliability of the observer; doubtful shipboard computations of set and drift were edited; and observations with erroneous locations (mostly observations on land) have been eliminated. The accepted data are considered most useful when used collectively as in summaries where a number of observations show trends.

General Observation Technique

The set (direction) and drift (speed) are computed by the navigator from the difference between the dead reckoning (DR) position and the position determined by any type of navigational fix. The drift can be determined along any straight line track and includes all factors which cause changes in the DR position. When a fix is obtained, the current set (direction) is FROM the DR position TO the fix; the drift (speed) is equal to the distance in nautical miles between the DR and the fix, divided by the number of hours since the last fix. For successive observations, the TO POSITION of one observation becomes the FROM POSITION of the next observation.

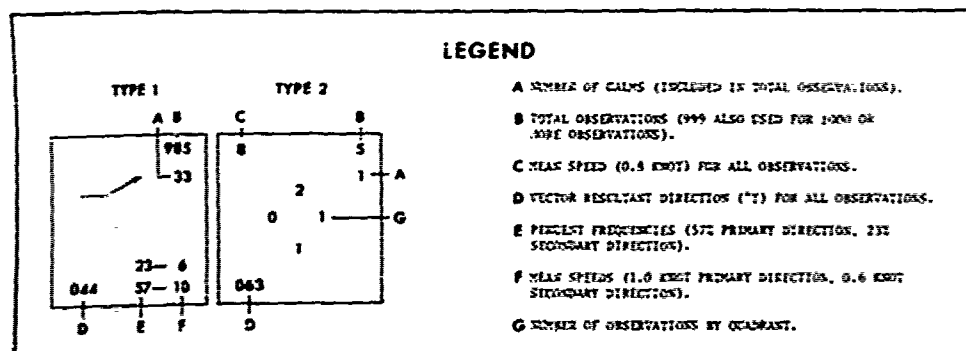
Because the influence of current may vary along a ship's track, the MEAN POSITION of the track is assigned as the geographic location of the current observation. An example of a current computation is shown in the figure below.



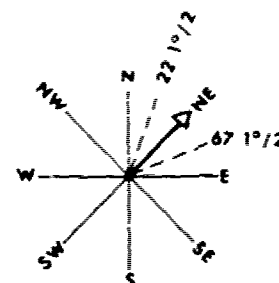
EXAMPLE OF A SURFACE CURRENT (SHIP'S DRIFT) OBSERVATION

Data Presentation

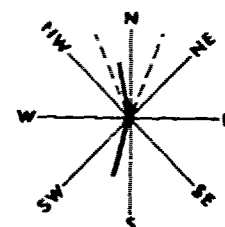
The following legend shows two types of surface current presentations by 1° quadrangle. Type 1 with 12 or more observations and type 2 with fewer than 12 observations. Where there are 11 or fewer observations within a 1° quadrangle, the total number of observations is shown within the 90° quadrant containing the observations.



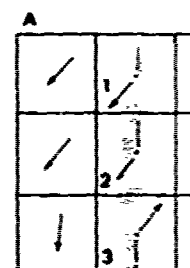
If there are 12 or more observations, the vector resultant is shown by vector resultants as follows:



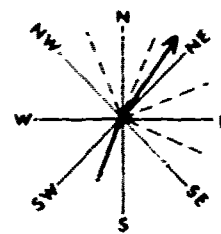
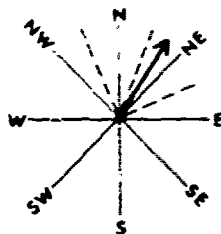
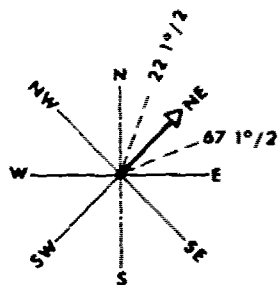
- (1) Persistent Current - 50 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector of the 8-point compass. (2) Prevailing Current - 33 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector of the 8-point compass.



- (4) Bizonal Flow - Practically all observations are concentrated in opposite pairs of 45° sectors, and one pair contains at least 80 percent as many observations as the opposite pair. This generally indicates variability that occurs in zones of entrainment between opposing currents (see examples A and B, quadrangles 1, 2, and 3).



If there are 12 or more observations in a 1° quadrangle, the surface current is depicted by vector resultants as follows:

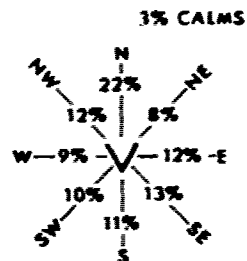
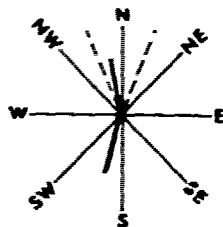


(1) Persistent Current - 60 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector of the 8-point compass.

(2) Prevailing Current - 70 percent or more of all observations fall within two adjacent 45° sectors.

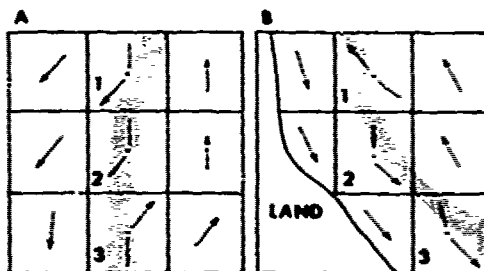
(3) Primary Current with Secondary Direction
(a) Primary Current - 50 percent or more of all observations fall within three adjacent 45° sectors.

(b) Secondary Direction - 20 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector, and the two resultant vector directions are separated by more than 90° of arc.



(4) Bizonal Flow - Practically all observations are concentrated in opposite pairs of 45° sectors, and one pair contains at least 80 percent as many observations as the opposite pair. This generally indicates variability that occurs in zones of entrainment between opposing currents (see examples A and B, quadrangles 1, 2, and 3).

(5) Variable Current - The 45° sector with most observations has less than 25 percent of all observations; direction is indeterminate.



1

2

consists primarily
are collected by the
is supplemented
is, mostly Japanese.
earliest observa-
the 1960's through

rived value. The
n under adverse
ater than 12 hours)
reliability
re edited; and ob-
ve been eliminated.
as in summaries

from the difference
by any type of
e track and includes
ained, the current
is equal to the
number of hours
one observation

EAN POSITION of
vation. An example

12 KM
FFD.

W
85
12'

700' N

00'

by 1° quadrangle.
uations. Where
mber of observa-

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS).

USED FOR 1000 OR

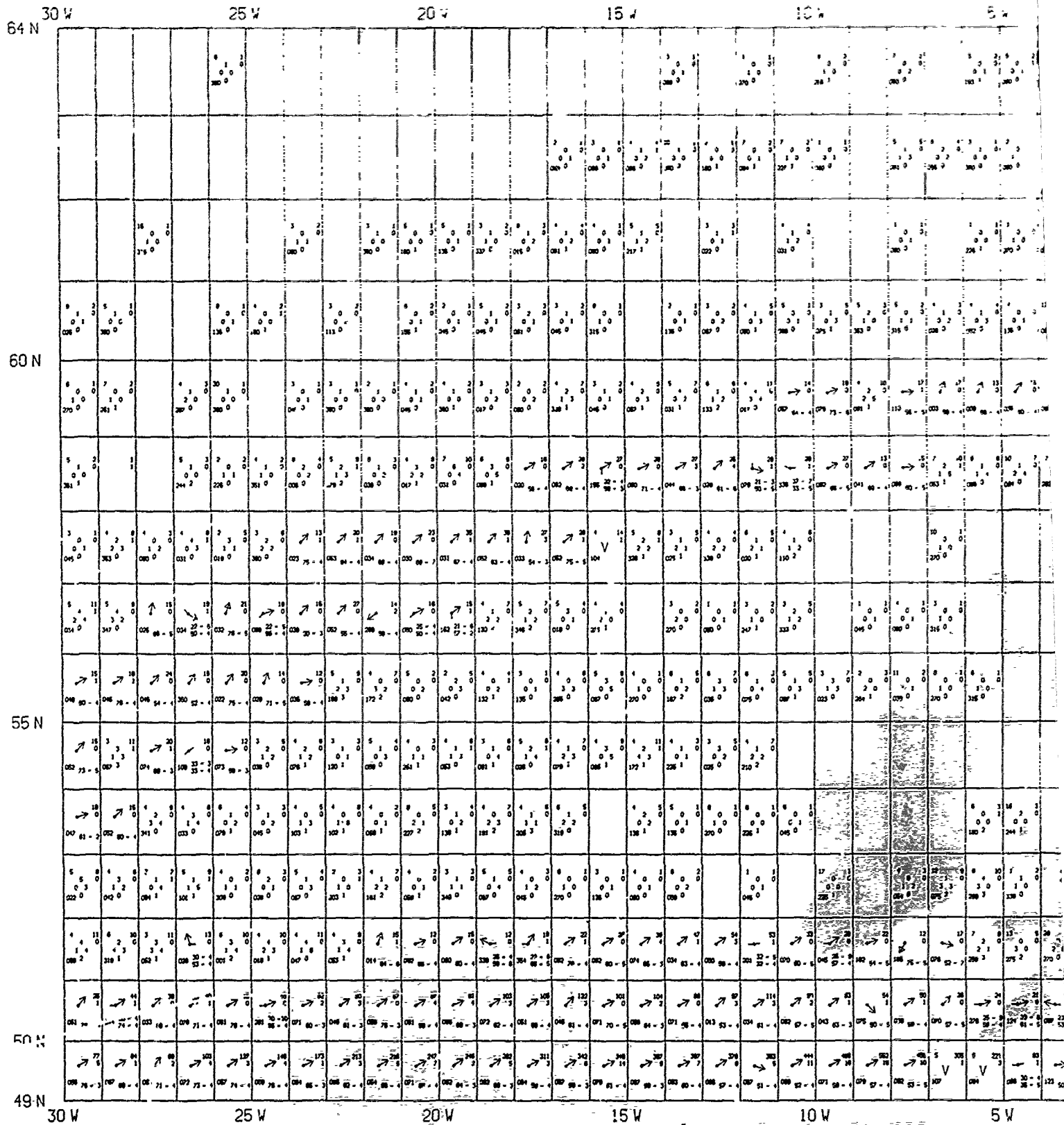
OBSERVATIONS.

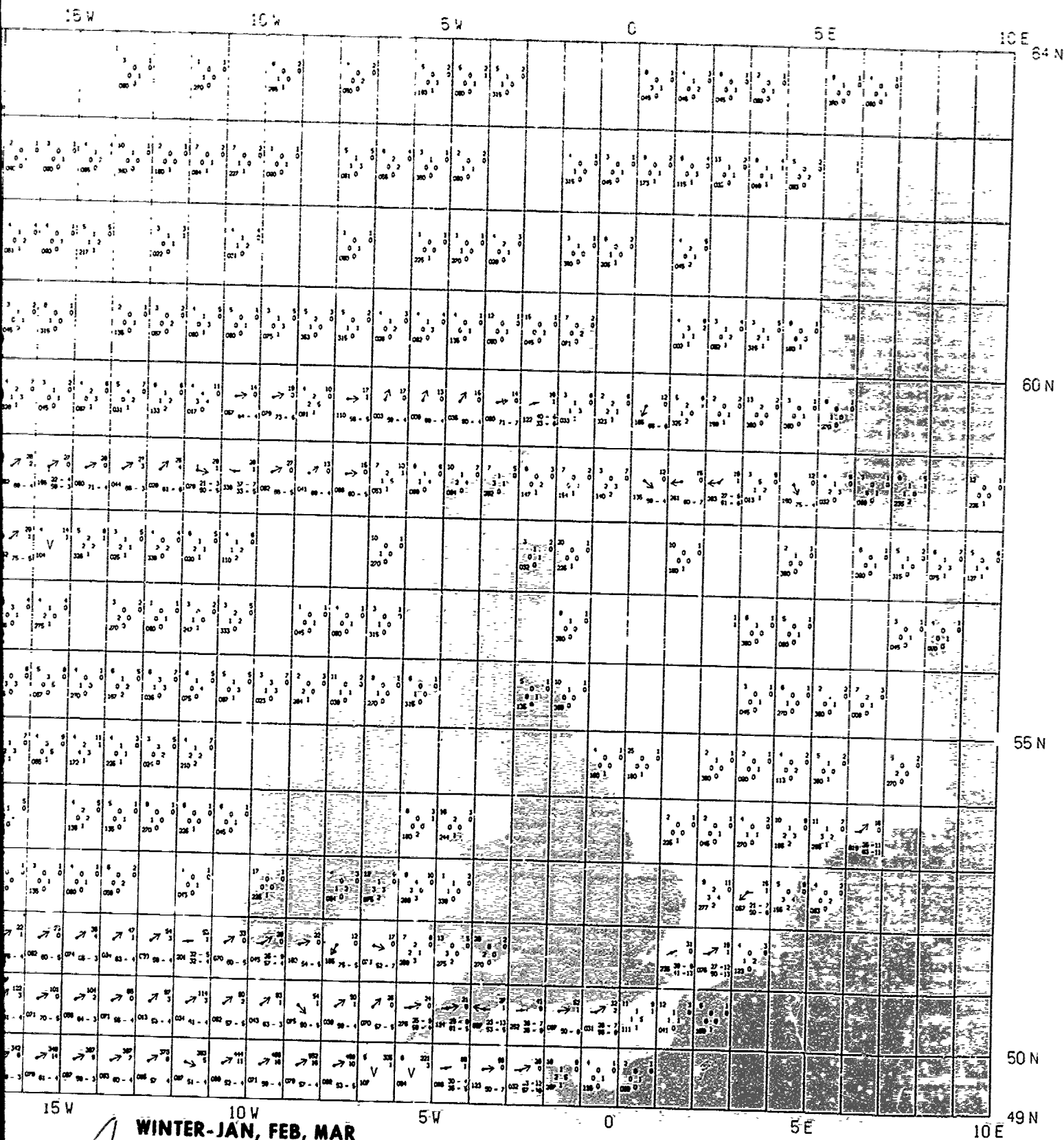
3) FOR ALL OBSERVATIONS.

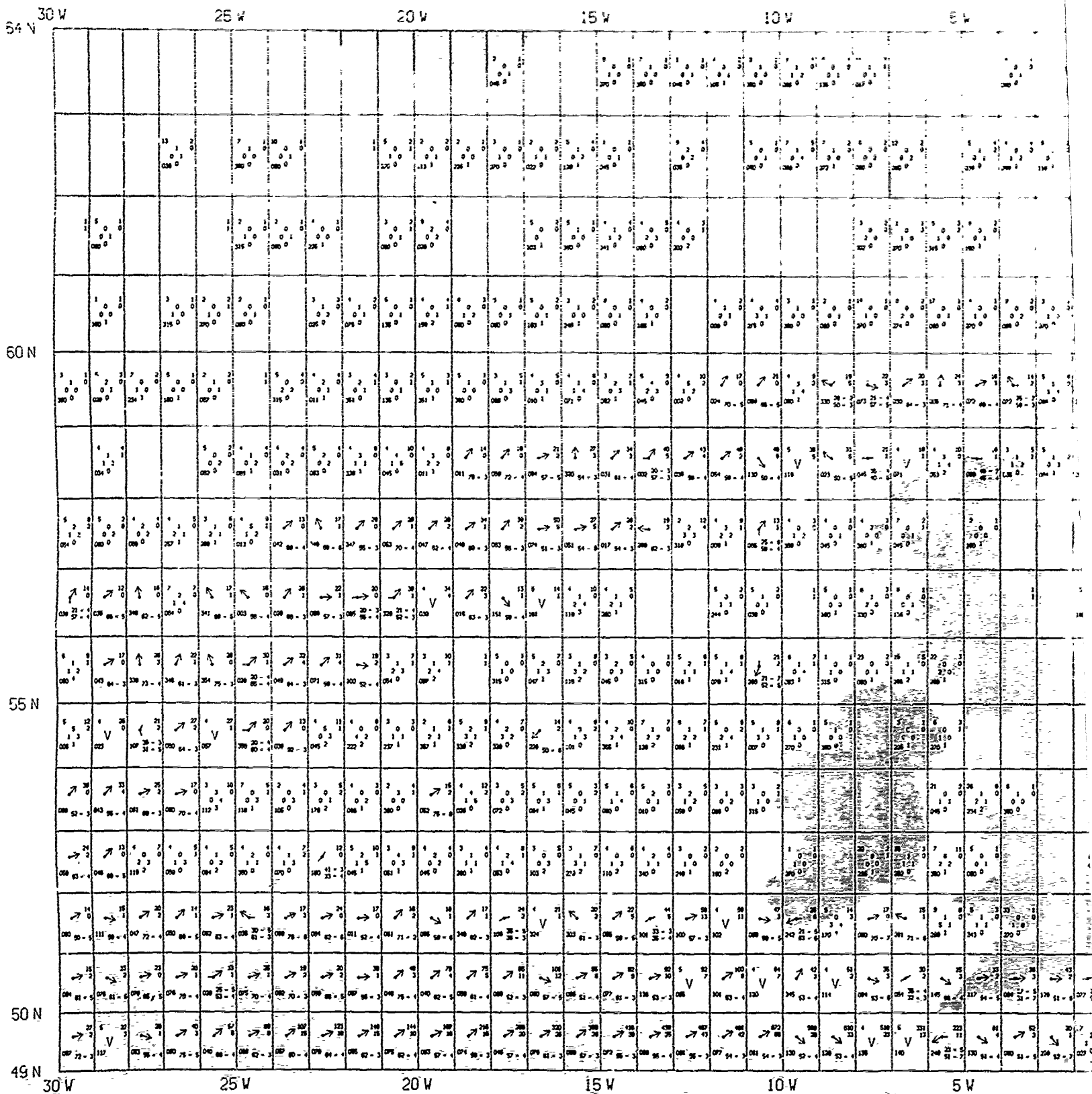
RY DIRECTION, 232

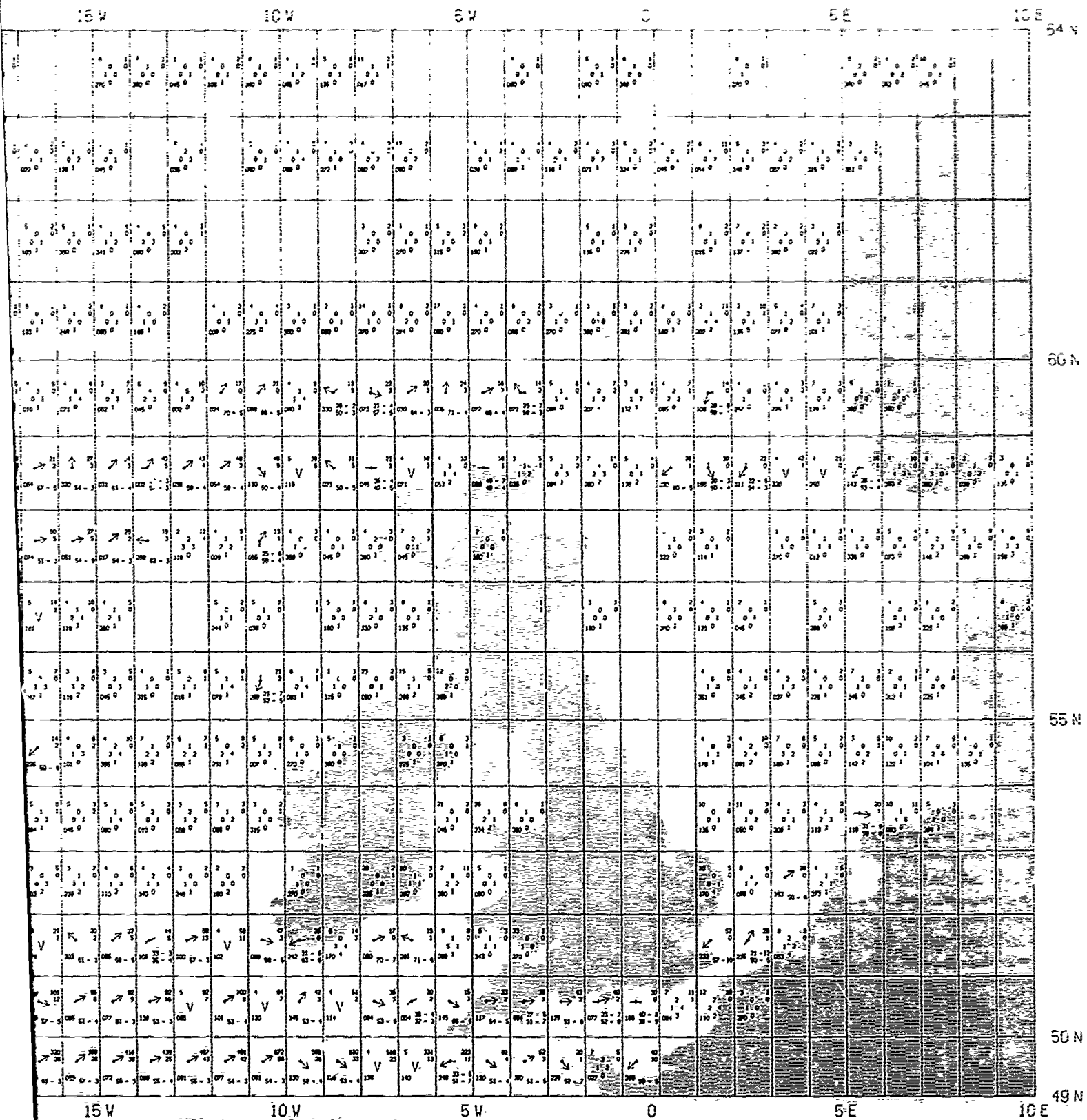
DIRECTION, 0.6 KNOT

RANT.

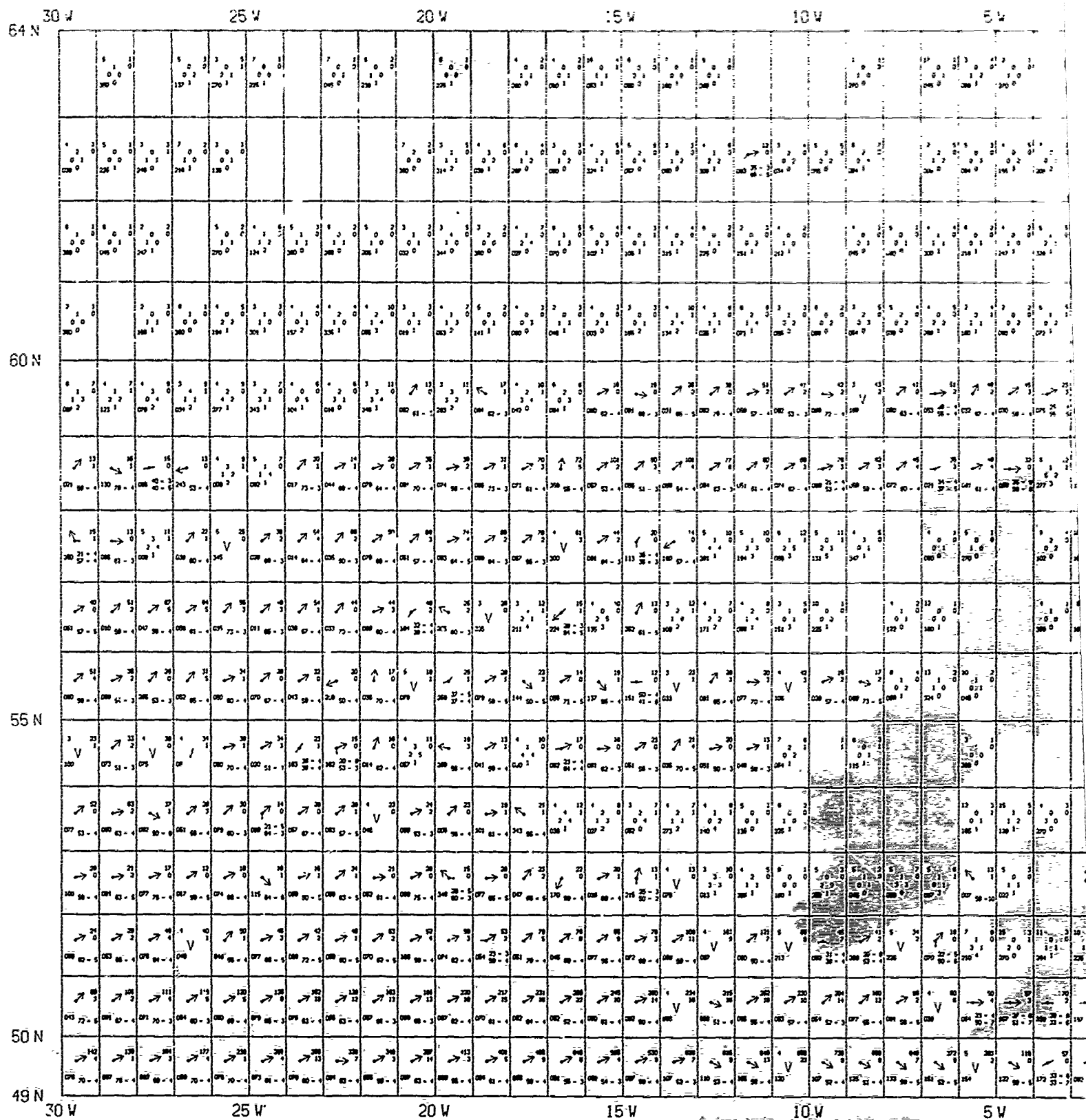


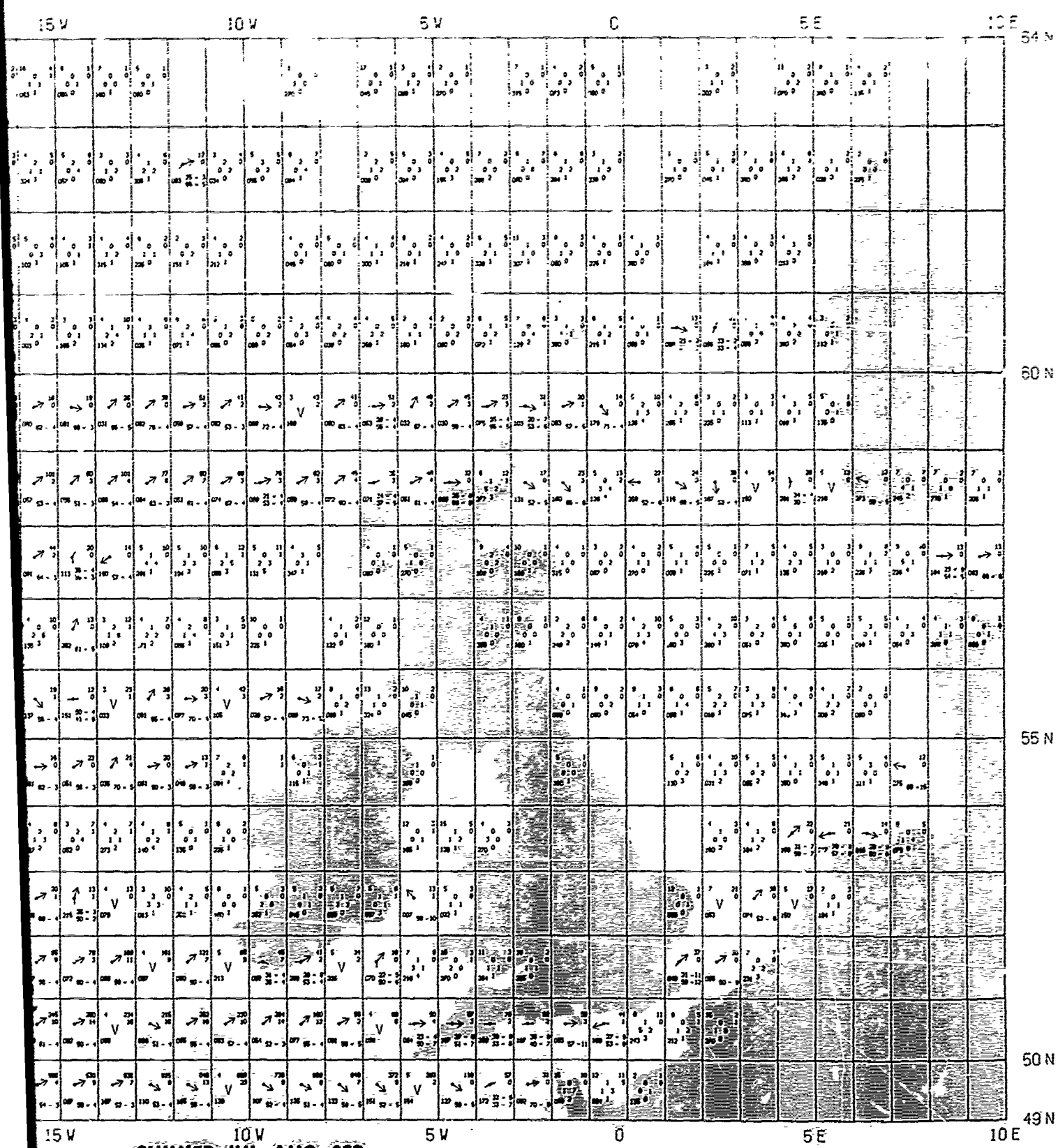


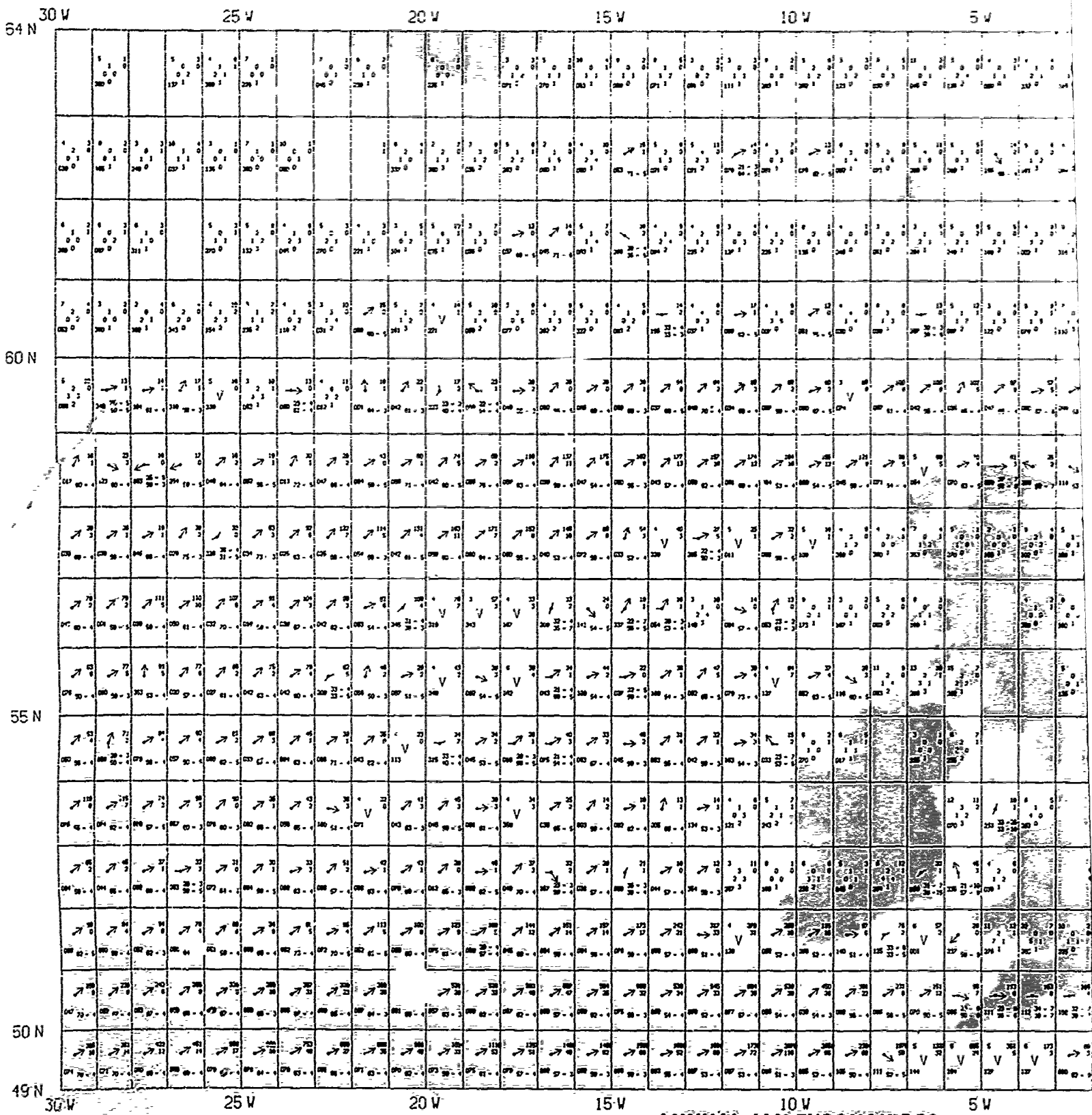


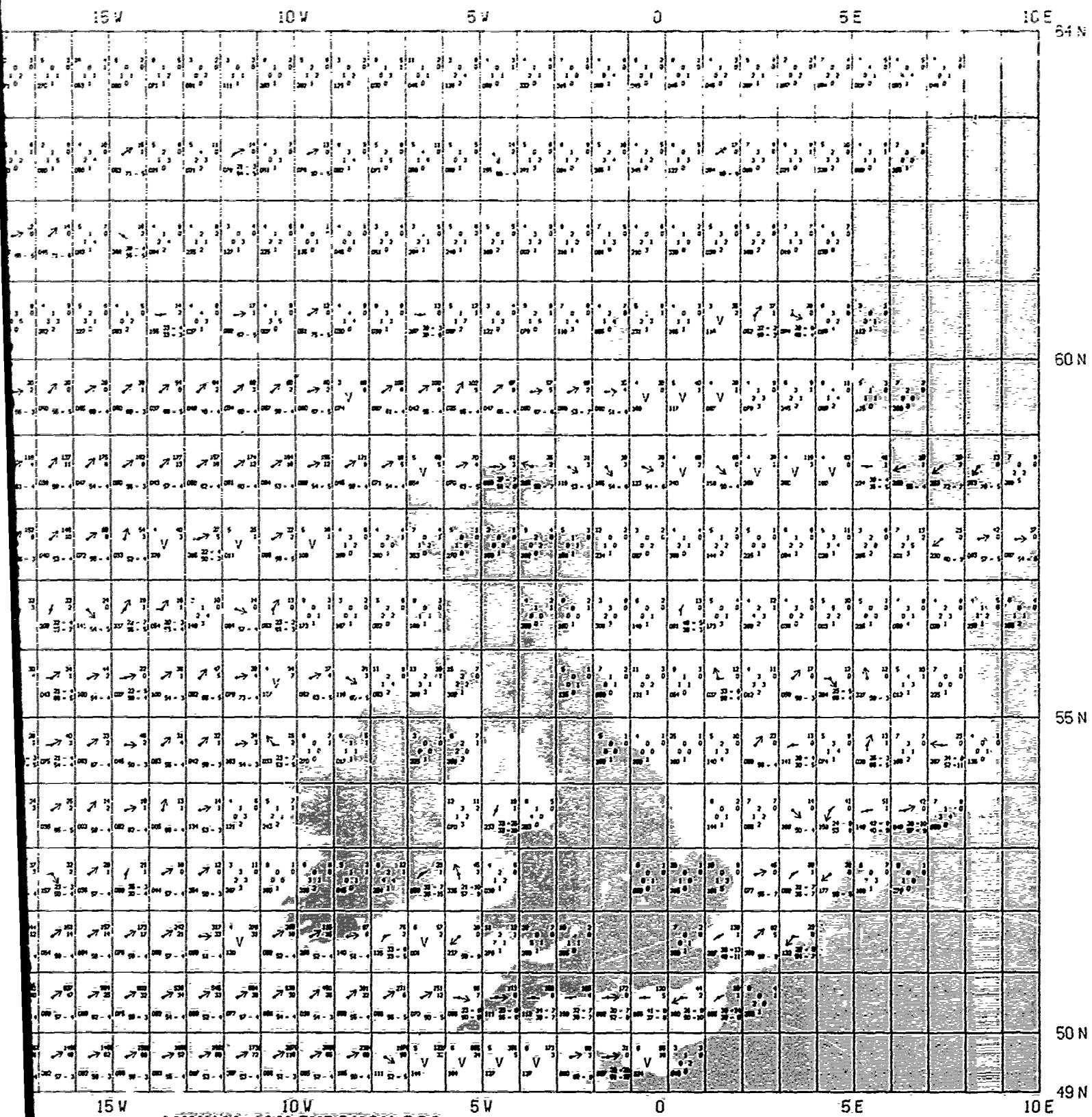


SPRING-APR, MAY, JUN









ANNUAL-JAN THROUGH DEC

15W

10W

5W

0

5E

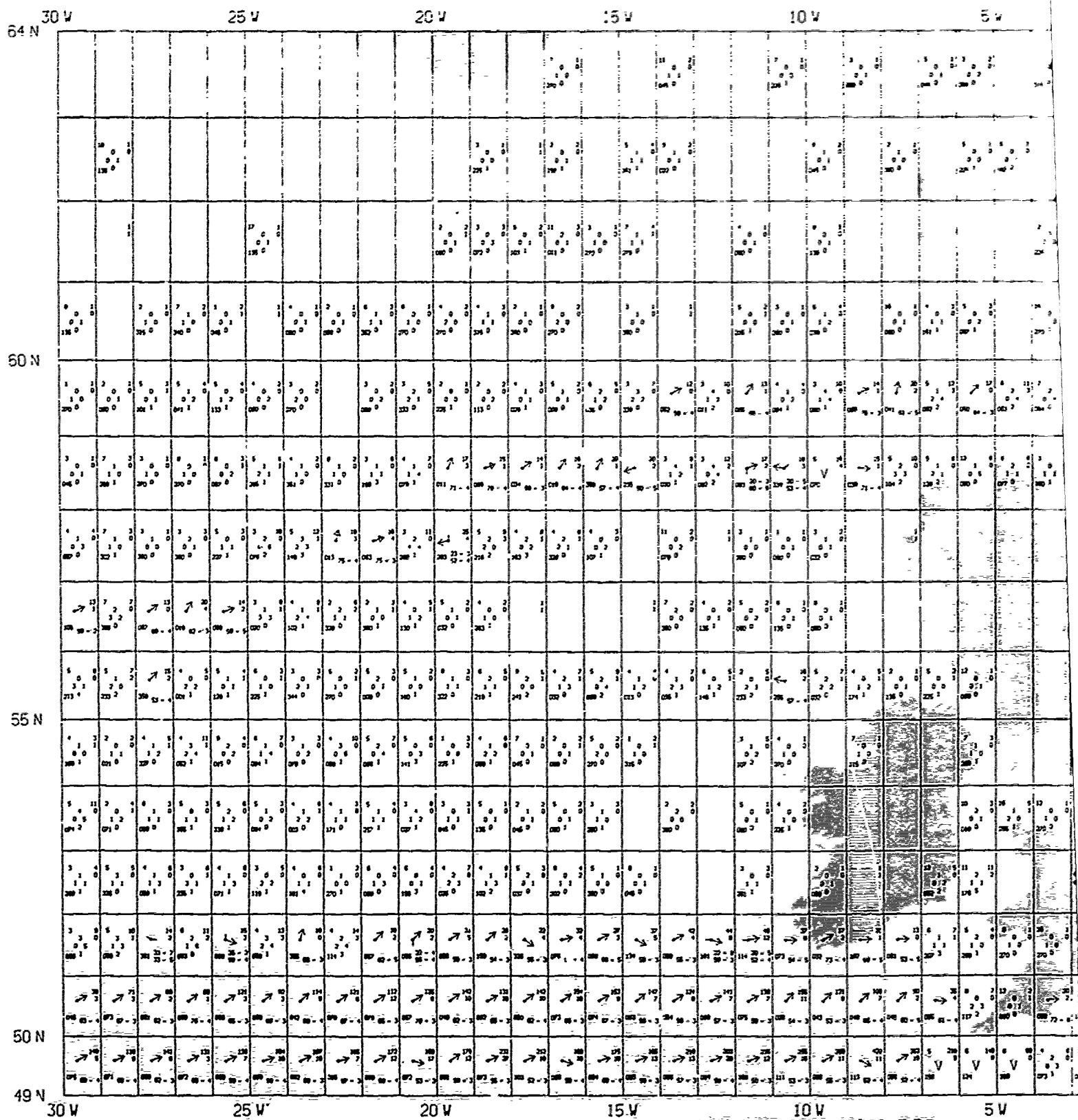
10E

50N

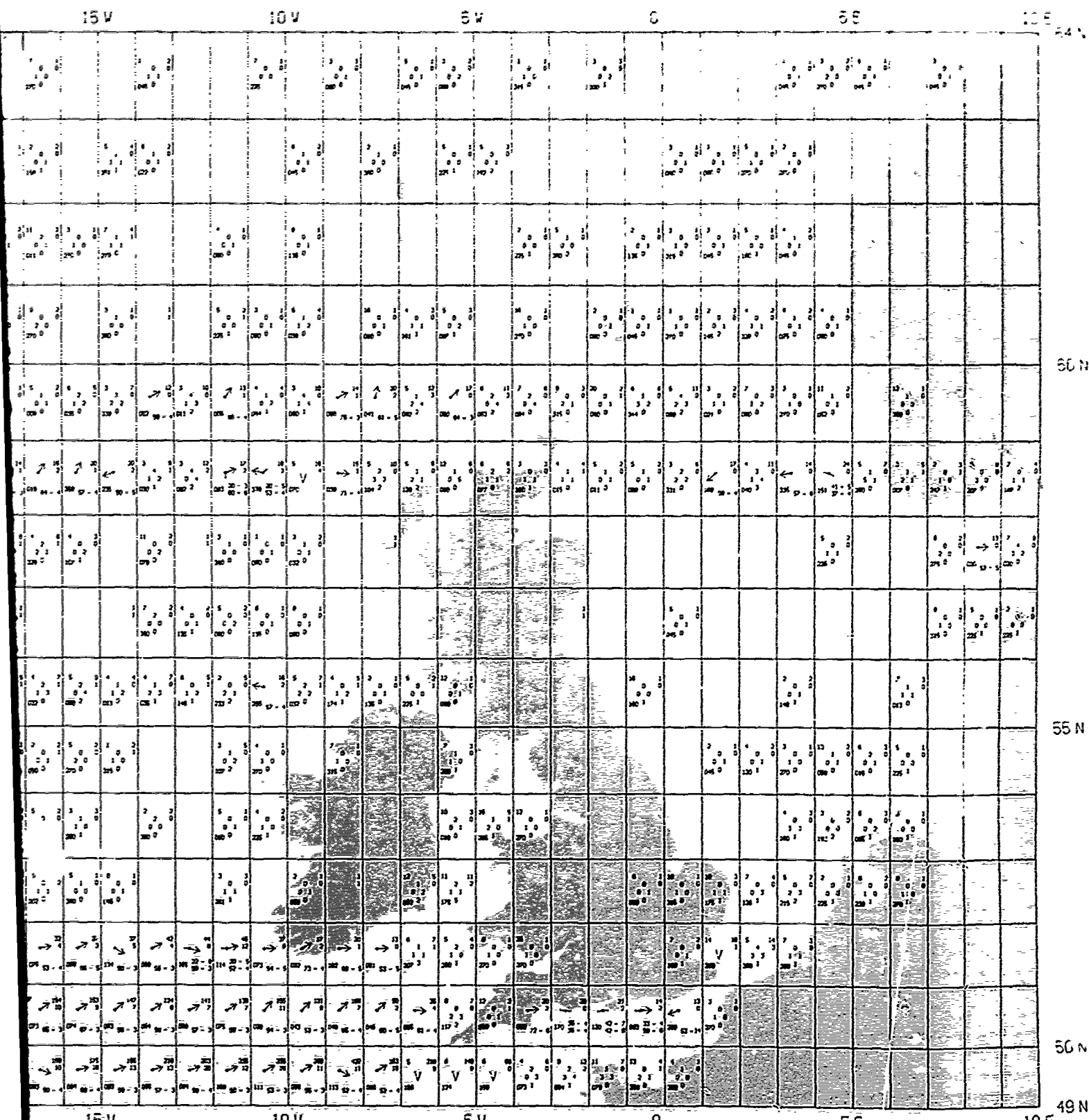
55N

60N

64N



AUTUMN-OCT, NOV, DEC



AUTUMN-OCT, NOV, DEC

1

1

2

DISTRIBUTION LIST

NAVY

CINCLANTFLT (N37, N353A)
COMSECONDFLT
COMSIXTHFLT
COMNAVICE
COMSUBLANT
COMNAVIAIRLANT
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMPATWINGSLANT
DIRNAVOCEANMET
FLENUMWEACEN
FLEWEACEN NORFOLK
FLEWEACEN ROTA
FLEWEAFAC
NAVWEASERVFAC JACKSONVILLE
NWSERD BERMUDA
NWSERD BRUNSWICK
NWSERD CECIL FIELD
NWSERD CHARLESTON
NWSERD GUANTANAMO BAY
NWSERD KEFLAVIK
NWSERD LONDON
NWSERD MAYPORT
NWSERD NAPLES
NWSERD PATUXENT RIVER
NWSERD ROOSEVELT ROADS
NWSERD SIGONELLA
NWSERD SOUDA BAY

PRIVATE & UNIVERSITIES

FLORIDA ST. UNIV.
LOUISIANA ST. UNIV.
MASS. INST. OF TECH.
ORE. ST. UNIV.
TEXAS A&M UNIV.
UNIV. OF MIAMI
UNIV. OF R.I.
UNIV. OF WASH.
SCRIPPS INST. OF OCEANOGRAPHY
WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INST.

OTHER GOVT.

NOAA/NODC
NOAA/NCC

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER NO. 001000-100	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. AD-A094022	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE SURFACE CURRENTS NORTHWEST NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN AND LABRADOR SEA	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Final	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR Naval Oceanographic Office NSTL Station Bay St. Louis, MS 39522	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)	
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Naval Oceanographic Office	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT PROJECT TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS	
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	12. REPORT DATE January 1974	13. NUMBER OF PAGES 14
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)	15. SECURITY CLASS (of this report)	15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Surface Currents Northwest North Atlantic Ocean Labrador Sea		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) X This atlas, and the series of which it is a part, is computer generated and automatically plotted. It makes available to the user the most recent surface current data collected and will be updated whenever sufficient amounts of data are added to the data file. This and the other atlases are based on a vast quantity of data as compared to the previous manually compiled editions printed in the mid-thirties.		

DD FORM 1 JAN 73 1413

EDITION OF 1 NOV 65 IS OBSOLETE
S/N 0102-014-6601

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

The surface current information is based mainly on ship drift, which is the difference between the dead reckoning position and the position determined by any type of navigational fix. This difference describes the direction and speed of the current.

**BEST
AVAILABLE COPY**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)